APPENDIX C

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APPENDIX C – VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY C-1

VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
BAKERSFIELD FIELD OFFICE

June 2009

Prepared for:

US Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield Field Office
3801 Pegasus Drive
Bakersfield, California 93308

Prepared by:

Tetra Tech, Inc.
180 Howard Street, Suite 250
San Francisco, California 94105

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym or Abbreviation	Full Phrase
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
EIS	environmental impact statement
BKFO	Bakersfield Field Office
RMP	resource management plan
SLRU	sensitivity level rating unit
SQRU	scenic quality rating unit
VRM	visual resource management

SECTION 1
INTRODUCTION

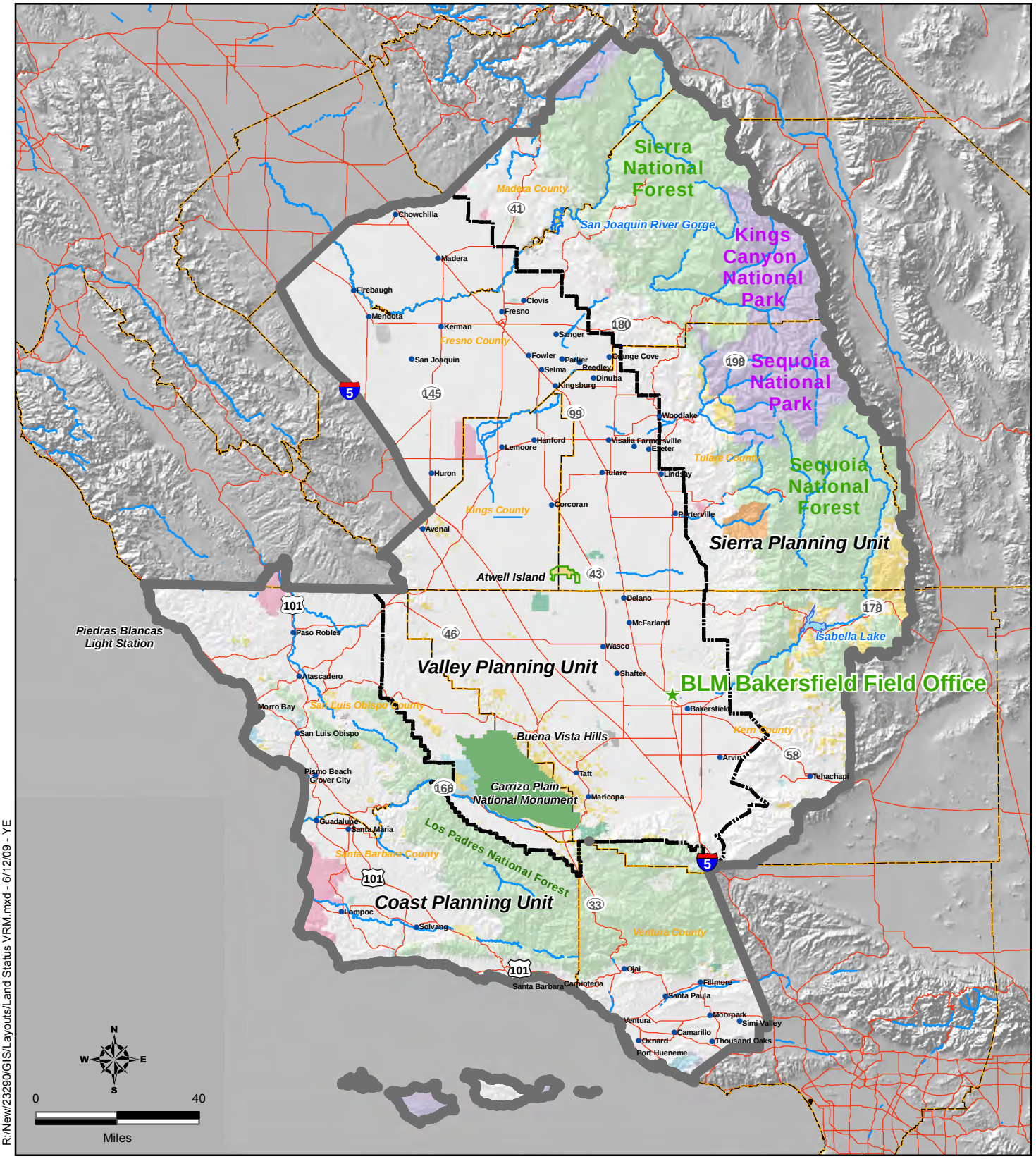
The US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bakersfield Field Office (BKFO), is preparing a resource management plan (RMP). The purpose of the RMP is to guide the BLM in managing public lands within the administrative boundary of the BKFO in central California. The BKFO planning area administrative boundary encompasses about 17 million acres throughout Kings, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare, Ventura, Madera, eastern Fresno, and western Kern Counties. The planning area encompasses lands within the BKFO administrative boundary regardless of public or private ownership. Within the planning area, the BKFO RMP decision area encompasses about 403,911 acres of public lands (Figure 1). The BLM's decision area includes minerals of split estate, where the BLM administers federal minerals that are below the surface of land not owned by the federal government, such as private land. The RMP decision area does not include other private lands, state lands, Indian reservations, federal lands not administered by the BLM, and lands within the planning areas of the RMPs for the Carrizo Plain and for the California Coastal National Monument.

In order to meet its responsibility to maintain the scenic values of the public lands, the BLM has developed a visual resource management (VRM) system that addresses the following (BLM 2009):

- Different levels of scenic values require different levels of management. For example, management of an area with high scenic value might be focused on preserving the character of the landscape, and management of an area with little scenic value might allow for major modifications to the landscape. Determining how an area should be managed first requires an assessment of the area's scenic values.
- Assessing scenic values and determining visual impacts can be a subjective process. Objectivity and consistency can be greatly increased by using the basic design elements to also describe proposed projects. These design elements are form, line, color, and texture, and they have often been used to describe and evaluate landscapes. Projects that repeat these design elements are usually in harmony with their surroundings; those that do not repeat these elements create contrast. By

adjusting project designs so the elements are repeated, visual impacts can be minimized.

The BLM's VRM system provides a way to identify and evaluate scenic values to determine the appropriate levels of management. It also provides a way to analyze potential visual impacts and to apply visual design techniques to ensure that surface-disturbing activities are in harmony with their surroundings. The BLM's VRM system consists of the inventory stage (visual resource inventory) and the analysis stage (visual resource contrast rating). In support of RMP preparation, the BLM has prepared this visual resource inventory, which covers the decision area described above.



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Legend

- Planning Unit Boundaries
- County Boundary
- Bakersfield Field Office Boundary
- Carrizo National Monument
- Towns/Cities

- Bureau of Land Management
- Indian Reservation
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Military
- State Lands
- County / City / Regional
- Unclassified

Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield Field Office

Bakersfield, California

Figure 1

SECTION 2
INVENTORY

The inventory stage involves identifying the visual resources of an area and assigning them to inventory classes using the BLM's visual resource inventory process (BLM 2009). The process rates the visual appeal of a tract of land, measuring public concern for scenic quality and determining whether the tract of land is visible from travel routes or observation points. The process is described in detail in BLM Manual H-8410-1—Visual Resource Inventory (BLM 1986). The results of the visual resource inventory become an important component of the BLM's RMP for the area. The RMP establishes how the public lands will be used and allocated for different purposes, and it is developed through public participation and collaboration.

The visual resource inventory process provides BLM managers with a means for determining visual values. The inventory described below is based on the manual's guidelines for assigning visual resource inventory classes to land managed by the BLM in the decision area.

The inventory consists of a scenic quality evaluation, a sensitivity level analysis, and a delineation of distance zones. Based on these three factors, BLM-administered lands are placed into one of four visual resource inventory classes, which represent the relative value of the visual resources. Classes I and II are the most valued, Class III represents a moderate value, and Class IV is of least value. The inventory classes provide the basis for considering visual values in the resource management planning process. Visual resource management classes are established through the RMP process for all BLM-administered lands. During the RMP process, the class boundaries are adjusted as necessary to reflect the resource allocation decisions made in the RMP.

Evaluators conducting the inventory had an understanding of the visual resource inventory system and were familiar with the areas being evaluated. After coordinating with the BKFO, a contractor conducted field work for the inventory from February 19 to 22, 2009. Data and information generated during the inventory are maintained in the BKFO, and relevant maps are provided below.

The visual resource inventory was conducted for areas along the Central Coast, for areas in the San Joaquin Valley (the southern portion of the Central Valley), and for areas in western portions of the southern Sierra Nevada. These areas are in the Central Coast, San Joaquin Valley, and Sierra bioregions. Below is a general description of these bioregions.

Central Coast Bioregion

The Central Coast bioregion extends some 300 miles from just north of Santa Cruz to just south of Santa Barbara, and inland to the floor of the San Joaquin Valley (California Natural Resources Agency 2009a.). The region includes many state parks and other recreational attractions. The geography offers coastal mountain ranges including the Santa Lucia and Santa Ynez, and coastal sand dunes. Vegetation includes chaparral, mixed hardwood forests, and oak woodlands. The Los Padres National Forest covers much of the southern portion of the bioregion. The Salinas and Cuyama rivers feed the bioregion's two major watersheds. The Central Coast bioregion features coastal scenery, mild, seasonally moist, and sometimes foggy climate, farmland, and vineyards.

San Joaquin Valley Bioregion

The San Joaquin Valley bioregion is a broad flat valley ringed by the Diablo and Coast Ranges on the west and the Sierra Nevada foothills on the east (California Natural Resources Agency 2009b). At its northern end, the San Joaquin Valley bioregion borders the southern end of the Sacramento Valley bioregion. Its eastern boundary joins the southern two-thirds of the Sierra bioregion.

The San Joaquin Valley bioregion is hot and dry in summer with long sunny days (California Natural Resources Agency 2009b). Winters are moist and often blanketed with heavy fog. Habitat includes vernal pools, valley sink scrub and saltbush, freshwater marsh, grasslands, arid plains, orchards, and oak savannahs. Much of the historic native grassland, woodland, and wetland in the Central Valley has been converted to farmland. The major river is the San Joaquin, with tributaries of the lower Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced, and Fresno Rivers. The southern portion of the bioregion includes the Kings, Kaweah, and Kern Rivers, which drain into closed interior basins. No significant rivers or creeks drain into the valley from the Coast Range.

Sierra Bioregion

The Sierra bioregion is a vast and rugged mountainous area, extending approximately 380 miles along California's eastern side, and is largely contiguous with Nevada (California Natural Resources Agency 2009c). The bioregion extends from the northern edge of the Plumas National Forest south to Tejon Pass in the Tehachapi Mountains, about 30 miles southeast of Bakersfield. The southern half of the Sierra bioregion extends westward from the Nevada state line and the western edge of the BLM's California Desert Conservation Area to the San Joaquin Valley floor.

Named for the Sierra Nevada range it encompasses, the Sierra bioregion includes forests, lakes, and rivers that generate much of the state's water supply (California Natural Resources

Agency 2009c). It features eight national forests, three national parks, numerous state parks, historical sites, wilderness, special recreation and national scenic areas, and mountain peaks.

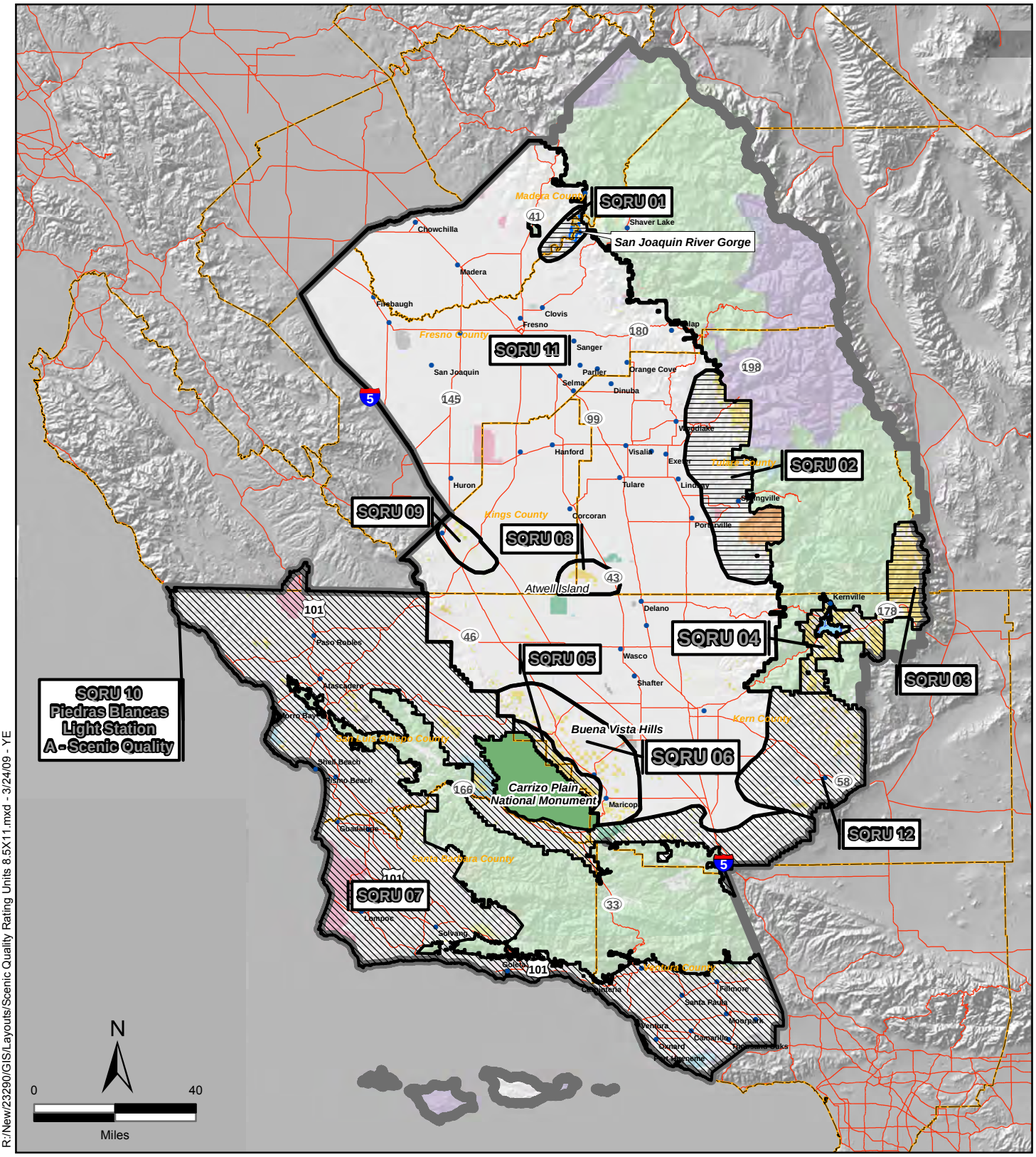
The climate varies with the elevation, offering cold snowy winters and cool summers at higher elevations and rainy winters and mild summers in the foothills (California Natural Resources Agency 2009c). Summers are dry. Mild dry mountain summers accommodate outdoor sports and activities, but when high pressure areas push temperatures upward and gusty winds blow, California is vulnerable to wildfires that consume thousands of acres of brush and timber every year.

The Sierra bioregion is rich in biodiversity, containing over half the plant species found in California and more than 400 of the state's terrestrial wildlife species, or about two-thirds of the birds and mammals and half the reptiles and amphibians (California Natural Resources Agency 2009c). The variety of habitat types include annual grassland, blue oak savannah, chaparral, ponderosa pine, black oak woodland, mixed conifer, red fir, riparian, alpine meadow, Jeffrey pine, sagebrush, and bitter brush. Animals that inhabit the Sierra bioregion include lodgepole chipmunk, mountain beaver, California mountain king snake, black bear, wolverine, California bighorn sheep, Pacific fisher, mule deer, and mountain lion. The California golden trout (the state fish) is native to the southern Sierra. Birds include the northern goshawk, mountain chickadee, pine grosbeak, California spotted owl, mountain quail, willow flycatcher, bald eagle, and great gray owl.

2.1 SCENIC QUALITY EVALUATION

Scenic quality is a measure of the visual appeal of a tract of land. In the visual resource inventory process, public lands are given an A, B, or C rating based on the apparent scenic quality. This is determined using seven key factors: landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications. During the rating process, each factor is compared with similar features within the physiographic province (a geographic region in which climate and geology have given rise to an array of landforms different from those of surrounding regions).

An important premise of the evaluation is that all public lands have scenic value, but areas with the most variety and most harmonious composition have the greatest scenic value. Another important concept is that scenic quality is evaluated in relationship to the natural landscape. This does not mean that human-made features within a landscape necessarily detract from the scenic value; human-made features that complement the natural landscape may enhance the scenic value.



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- County Boundary
- Bakersfield Field Office Boundary
- Carrizo National Monument
- A - Scenic Quality
- B - Scenic Quality
- C - Scenic Quality
- Towns/Cities

- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Military
- State Lands
- County / City / Regional
- Unclassified

Scenic Quality Rating Units
Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield Field Office

Bakersfield, California

Figure 2

2.1.1 Delineating Scenic Quality Rating Units

The planning area is subdivided into scenic quality rating units (SQRUs) for rating purposes. SQRUs are delineated by like physiographic characteristics; such factors as similar visual patterns, texture, color, and variety; and areas that have similar impacts from human modifications. In addition to examining the landscape during the field visit for like physiographic characteristics, the BLM was also consulted in order to establish appropriate SQRUs.

2.1.2 Evaluating Scenic Quality

Each SQRU was observed from various viewpoints and was evaluated for scenic quality. The ratings were recorded using Scenic Quality Field Inventory (BLM Form 8400-1) and Scenic Quality Rating Summary (BLM Form 8400-5) (Appendix A). The forms in Appendix A provide a description of the specific visual resources found on land managed by the BLM. The scores on the forms reflect the evaluator's overall impression of the land managed by the BLM. The scores were used to assign a scenic rating for each SQRU (Figure 2). The BLM maintains a photographic record of the SQRUs in the BKFO.

2.2 SENSITIVITY LEVEL ANALYSIS

Sensitivity levels are a measure of public concern for scenic quality. Public lands are assigned high, medium, or low sensitivity levels by analyzing the various indicators of public concern.

2.2.1 Factors Considered

Type of Users

Visual sensitivity will vary with the type of users. Recreational sightseers may be highly sensitive to any changes in visual quality, whereas commuters who regularly pass through the area may not be as sensitive to change.

Amount of Use

Areas seen and used by large numbers of people are potentially more sensitive. Protecting visual values usually becomes more important as the number of viewers increases.

Public Interest

The visual quality of an area may be of concern to local, state, or national groups. Indicators of this concern are usually expressed in such ways as public meetings, letters, newspaper or magazine articles, newsletters, and land use plans. Public controversy created in response to proposed activities that would change the landscape character is also considered.

Adjacent Land Uses

The interrelationship with land uses in adjacent lands can affect the visual sensitivity of an area. For example, an area within the viewshed of a residential area may be very sensitive, whereas an area surrounded by commercially developed lands may not be visually sensitive.

Special Areas

Management objectives for special areas frequently require special consideration for the protection of the visual values. Some examples are wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, and areas of critical environmental concern. This does not necessarily mean that these areas are scenic but rather that one of the management objectives may be to preserve the natural landscape setting. The management objectives for these areas may be used as a basis for assigning sensitivity levels.

2.2.2 Delineation of Sensitivity Level Rating Units

There is no standard procedure for delineating sensitivity level rating units (SLRUs). The unit boundaries depend on the factors driving the sensitivity consideration; consequently, a thorough review of the factors described above was completed before delineating the SLRUs. For example, important recreation areas were identified where visual resources may be of concern to the public. Distance zones were considered as well in identifying the SLRU boundaries. In addition to examining sensitivity factors during the field visit, the BLM was also consulted in order to establish appropriate SLRUs.

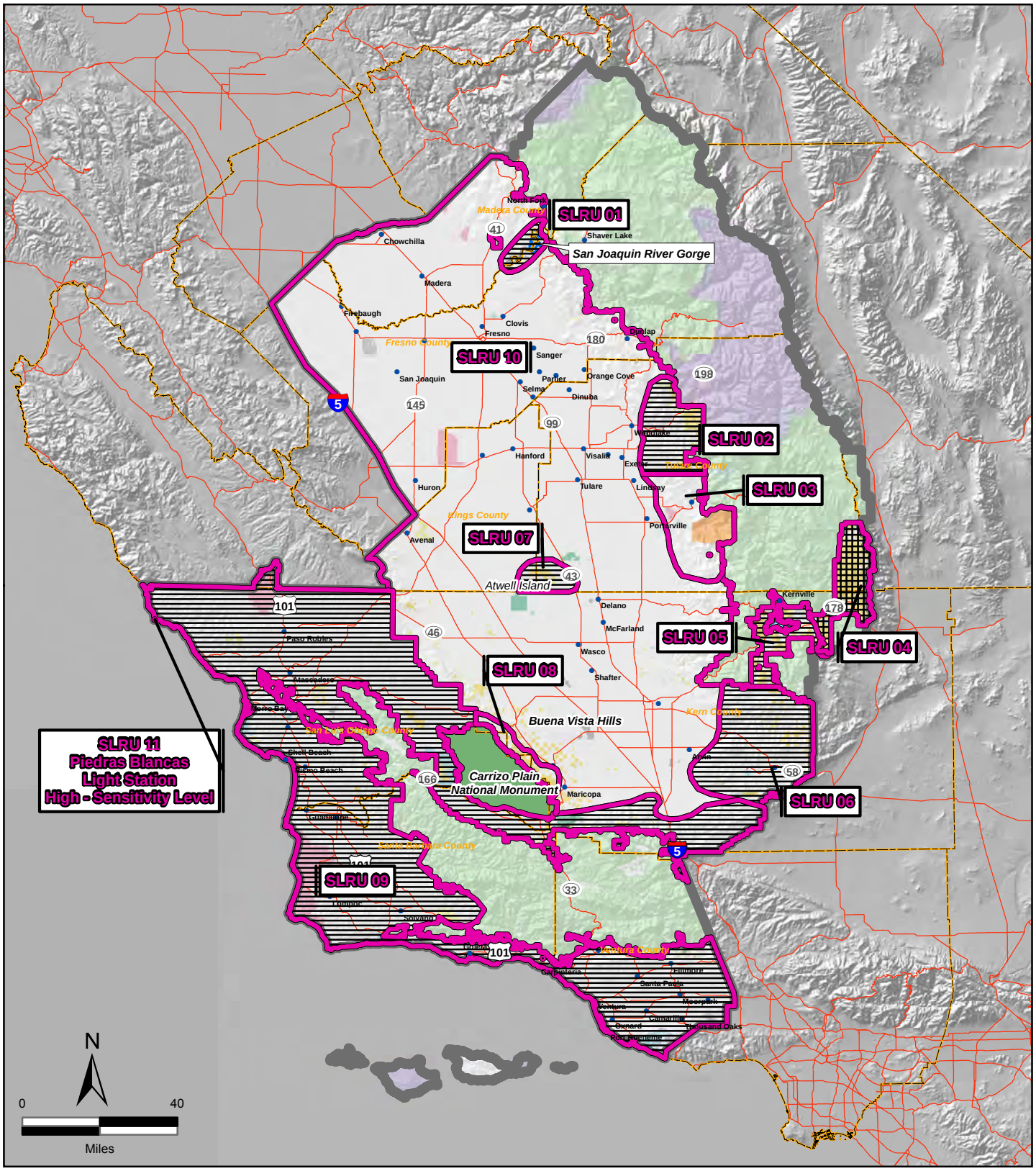
2.2.3 Evaluating Sensitivity Level

Each SLRU was evaluated for sensitivity, and the ratings were recorded using Sensitivity Level Rating Sheet (BLM Form 8400-6) (Appendix B). Appendix B provides a brief rating and description of the sensitivity factors based on field work and consultations with the BLM. Figure 3 shows the sensitivity level ratings for land managed by the BLM based on the sensitivity level ratings in Appendix B.

2.3 DISTANCE ZONES

Landscapes are subdivided into three distance zones based on relative visibility from travel routes or observation points. The three zones are foreground-middle ground, background, and seldom seen.

The foreground-middle ground zone is the area that can be seen from each travel route for a distance of three to five miles where management activities might be viewed in detail. The outer boundary of this distance zone is defined as the point where the texture and form of individual plants are no longer apparent in the landscape. In some areas, atmospheric conditions can reduce visibility and shorten the distance normally covered by each zone. (Where the foreground-middle ground zone from one travel route overlaps the background from another route, only the foreground-middle ground designation is used.)



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Sensitivity Level Rating Units
Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield Field Office

Bakersfield, California

- County Boundary
- Bakersfield Field Office Boundary
- Carrizo National Monument
- Sensitivity Level Rating Units (SLRU)
- High - Sensitivity Level
- Medium - Sensitivity Level
- Low - Sensitivity Level
- Towns/Cities

- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Military
- State Lands
- County / City / Regional
- Unclassified

Figure 3

The background zone is the remaining area that can be seen from each travel route to approximately 15 miles. Not included are areas in the background that are so distant that the only thing discernible is the form or outline of features. In order to be included within this distance zone, vegetation is visible at least as patterns of light and dark.

The seldom seen zone is areas that are not readily visible within the foreground-middle ground and background zones and areas beyond the background zones. It is associated with portions of the landscape which are generally not visible from key observation points (such as travel routes or viewpoints), or portions which are visible but more than 15 miles away.

Distance zones were determined in the field by actually traveling roadways in the planning area and identifying areas that can and cannot be viewed. Additionally, the BLM was consulted in order to determine distance zones based on relative visibility from travel routes or observation points. Figure 4 shows the distance zones for land managed by the BLM in the decision area.

2.4 VISUAL RESOURCE CLASSES AND OBJECTIVES

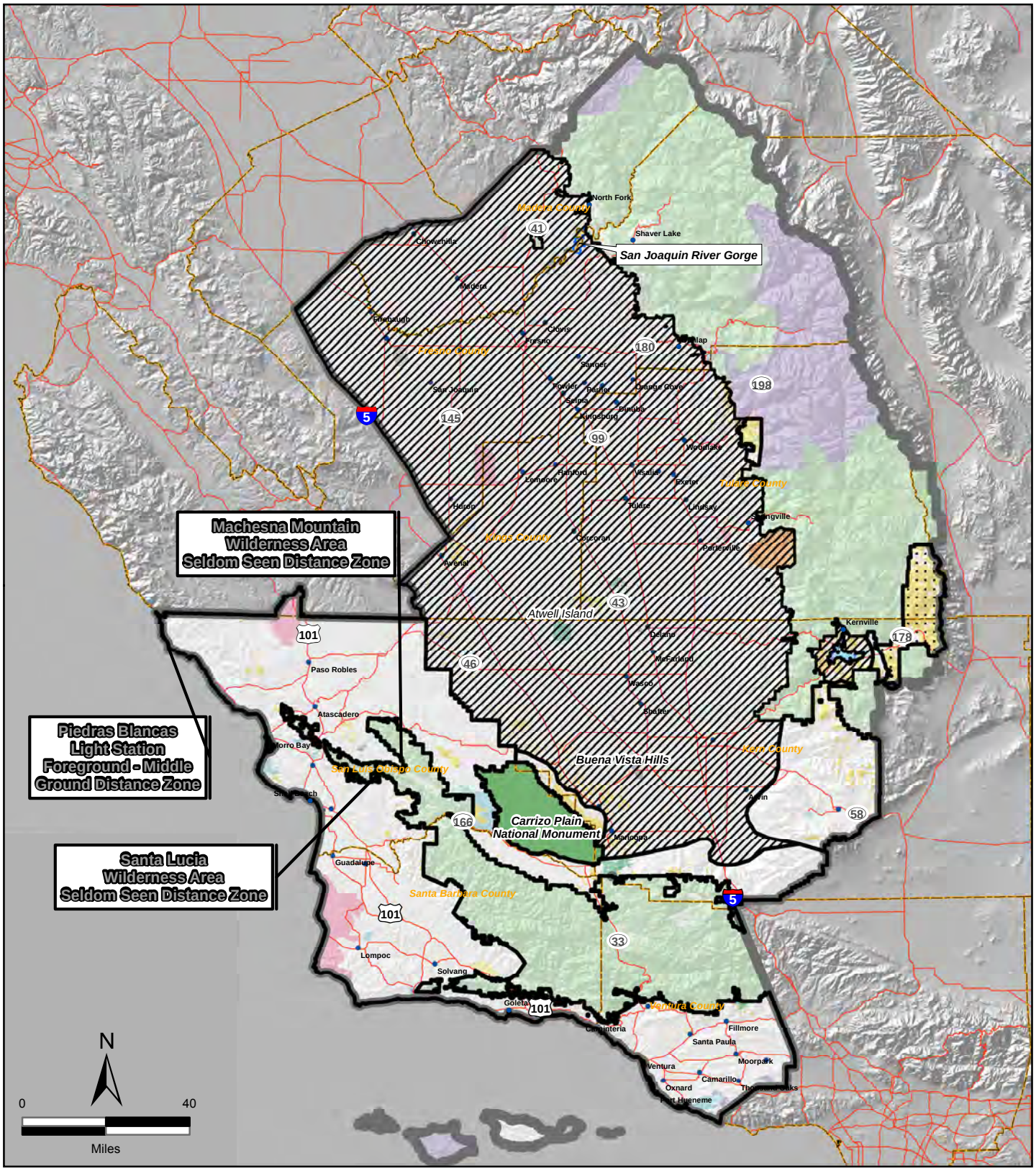
2.4.1 Purposes of Visual Resource Classes

There are four visual resource classes, which are categories assigned to public lands. The classes serve as an inventory tool that portrays the relative value of the visual resources and as a management tool that portrays the visual management objectives.

Visual Resource Inventory Classes

Visual resource inventory classes are assigned in this inventory to land managed by the BLM. This is accomplished by combining the three overlays (for scenic quality, sensitivity levels, and distance zones) and using the guidelines in BLM Handbook H-8410-1, Visual Resource Inventory, in order to create the visual resource inventory class overlay (Figure 5). Based on Figure 5, the following number of acres is found in the visual resource inventory classes:

- Visual resource inventory class I: 131,256 acres;
- Visual resource inventory class II: 42,165 acres;
- Visual resource inventory class III: 33,892 acres; and
- Visual resource inventory class IV: 196,573 acres.



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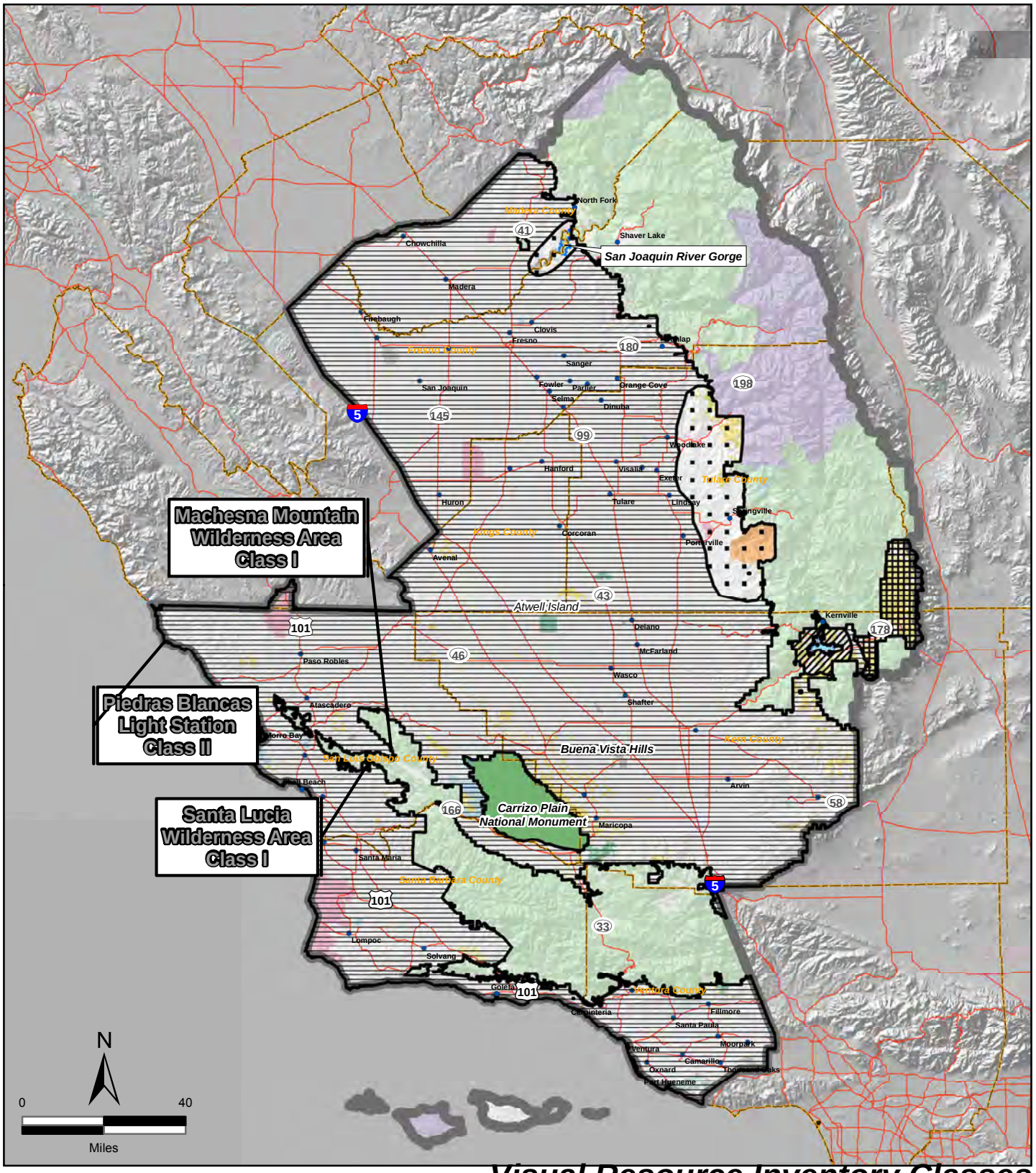
County Boundary
Bakersfield Field Office Boundary
Carrizo National Monument
Foreground-Middle Ground Distance Zone
Background Distance Zone
Seldom Seen Distance Zone

Towns/Cities
Bureau of Land Management
Forest Service
National Park Service
Bureau of Reclamation
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Military
State Lands
County / City / Regional
Unclassified

Distance Zones
Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield Field Office

Bakersfield, California

Figure 4



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Visual Resource Inventory Classes
Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield Field Office

Bakersfield, California

Figure 5

Kern County Boundary
Bakersfield Field Office Boundary
Carrizo National Monument

Visual Resource Inventory Class

I
II
III
IV

Towns/Cities
Bureau of Land Management
Forest Service
National Park Service
Bureau of Reclamation
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Military
State Lands
County / City / Regional
Unclassified

Class I is assigned to those areas where a management decision has been made previously to maintain a natural landscape. This includes wilderness areas where decisions have been made to preserve a natural landscape. Classes II, III, and IV are assigned based on a combination of scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones.

Inventory classes are informational and provide the basis for considering visual values in the RMP process. They do not establish management direction and should not be used as a basis for constraining or limiting surface-disturbing activities.

Visual Resource Management Classes

Visual resource management classes are assigned through RMPs to land managed by the BLM. The assignment of visual management classes is ultimately based on the management decisions made in RMPs, but visual values must be considered throughout the RMP process. During the RMP process, those who propose projects that would disturb the surface must consider the importance of the visual values and the impacts the project may have on these values. Management decisions in the RMP must reflect the value of visual resources. In some instances, the value of the visual resource may be the driving force for some management decisions. A map is developed in each RMP showing the approved visual resource management classes.

2.4.2 Objectives for Visual Resource Classes

The visual resources classes with established objectives are as follows:

- Class I Objective preserves the character of the landscape. It provides for natural ecological changes but does not preclude limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low and must not attract attention.
- Class II Objective retains the character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- Class III Objective partially retains the character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- Class IV Objectives provide for management activities that require major modifications of the landscape's character. This level of change can be high. The management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention; however, every attempt should be made to minimize their impact through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repetition of the basic elements.

2.4.3 Rehabilitation Areas

Areas in need of rehabilitation from a visual standpoint are identified during the inventory process. The level of rehabilitation will be determined through the RMP process by assigning the VRM class approved for that particular area. No areas are identified by this inventory as needing rehabilitation.

SECTION 3
REFERENCES

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_____. 2009c. The Sierra Bioregion—An Overview. Internet Web site: http://ceres.ca.gov/geo_area/bioregions/Sierra/about.html.

Appendix A
Scenic Quality Rating Units

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	**Date** February 26, 2009 **District** Bakersfield Field Office **Resource Area** San Joaquin River Gorge **Scenic quality rating unit** 01

1. Evaluators *(names)*
Peter DeWitt
Derek Holmgren

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER *(Feature)*

	a. LANDFORM / WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE *(General)*
FORM	Wide v-shaped gorge topped with rolling hills. River drains gorge bottom past boulders. Rock outcrops along gorge sides. Dramatic relief.	Relatively even and uniform on gorge sides and top. Absent close to river.	Flat and paved road. Two flat and paved parking lots. Boxy hydroelectric facility. Flat dirt trails.
LINE	Diagonal, meandering gorge sides down to narrow river. Slightly diagonal hills atop gorge. Irregular path of gorge. Slightly diagonal and meandering river.	Diagonal along gorge sides and slightly diagonal atop gorge.	Winding road. Horizontal parking lots. Horizontal and vertical hydroelectric facility. Winding trails.
COLOR	Tan, gray, and rust rock outcrop. Dark blue and white water.	Light green to dark green. Seasonal variations.	Gray road and parking lots. Tan hydroelectric facility. Tan trails.
TEXTURE	Moderately smooth gorge sides and top. Smooth rock along gorge bottom. Moderately smooth river.	Moderately smooth.	Smooth road and parking lots. Stiff hydroelectric facility. Smooth trails.

3. Narrative
The SQRU is composed of a gorge drained by the San Joaquin River. Expansive views are available from the top of the gorge and along Smalley Road, which winds down the eastern side of the gorge. Due to the narrow gorge bottom and winding nature of the gorge, opportunities for distant views lessen closer to the gorge bottom. In addition to the road, the other human-made structures are two recreation parking areas near the gorge bottom, a hydroelectric facility near the gorge bottom, and a foot bridge crossing the river. However, the visibility of these structures is limited due to the narrow gorge bottom and winding nature of the gorge. Rock outcrops, grasses, and oak woodlands with a mixture of foothill pines, shrubs, and numerous wildflowers cover the hillsides of the gorge. Although the current dominant colors are shades of green, additional vegetation colors are expected during spring and summer. A few trails cross the area, creating tan lines through green grasses.

4. SCORE *(Circle Appropriate Level)* *

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3	1	5
b. Vegetation	5	3	1	4
c. Water	5	3	0	3
d. Color	5	3	1	4
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3	0	3
f. Scarcity	5+	3	1	4
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0
TOTALS				23

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☒ **A** — **19 or more**
- ☐ **B** — **12 – 18**
- ☐ **C** — **11 or less**

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	**Date** February 26, 2009 **District** Bakersfield Field Office **Resource Area** Kaweah River **Scenic quality rating unit** 02

1. Evaluators *(names)*
Peter DeWitt
Derek Holmgren

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER *(Feature)*

	a. LANDFORM / WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE *(General)*
FORM	Dramatic relief. Rolling hills give way to mountain foothills. Rivers drain valleys. Rock outcrops.	Relatively even and uniform on mountains. Distinct or patchy on hillsides. Relatively even and uniform closer to rivers.	Flat roads.
LINE	Diagonal and meandering hills give way to vertical mountain foothills. Slightly diagonal and meandering rivers.	Diagonal on hillsides and vertical mountains. Slightly diagonal near rivers.	Linear and winding roads.
COLOR	Tan, gray, and rust rock outcrop. Tan terrain. Dark blue and white water. White snow during the winter.	Light green to dark green. Seasonal variations.	Gray roads and tan roads.
TEXTURE	Moderately smooth mountain foothills. Coarse hillsides. Moderately smooth rivers	Moderately smooth on mountains and near rivers. Moderately coarse on hillsides.	Smooth roads.

3. Narrative
The SQRU is primarily composed of BLM land straddling the Kaweah River and forks and tributaries of the river. The Kaweah River drains valleys between rolling hills that give rise to dramatic mountain foothills. The valleys and river meander irregularly. Due to the dramatic relief, views of the river are frequently limited to locations where roads and trails cross it. Rock outcrops, grasses, and oak woodlands, with a mixture of shrubs and wildflowers, cover the hills and mountain foothills. Although the current dominant colors are shades of green, additional vegetation colors are expected during spring and summer. Also, snow covers the higher elevations. Livestock and hiking trails crisscross the area, creating tan lines through green vegetation.

4. SCORE *(Circle Appropriate Level)* *

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3	1	4
b. Vegetation	5	3	1	4
c. Water	5	3	0	3
d. Color	5	3	1	4
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3	0	4
f. Scarcity	5+	3	1	4
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0
TOTALS	23			

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☒ **A** — **19 or more**
- ☐ **B** — **12 – 18**
- ☐ **C** — **11 or less**

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY	Date: February 26, 2009 District: Bakersfield Field Office Resource Area: Sierra Nevada Wilderness Areas Scenic quality rating unit: 03

1. Evaluators *(names)*

Peter DeWitt
Derek Holmgren

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER *(Feature)*

	a. LANDFORM / WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE *(General)*
FORM	Dramatic relief. Valleys and mountain foothills give way to mountains drained by creeks. Rock outcrops on mountain sides. Exposed rock promontories. High mountain meadows.	Absent below mountain foothills, on top of some mountains, rock outcrops, and promontories. Somewhat even and uniform on mountains and foothills. Sparse and clustered around creeks in valleys.	Flat dirt road and trails.
LINE	Diagonal mountain foothills. Vertical and jagged mountains. Diagonal and meandering creeks. Flat meadows and valleys.	Vertical on mountains. Diagonal on mountains/foothills. Flat in meadows and valleys.	Horizontal, diagonal, and winding road and trails.
COLOR	Tan and warm tan terrain and rock. Dark blue water. White snow during the winter.	Light green to dark green. Seasonal variations though.	Tan road and trails.
TEXTURE	Smooth to jagged rock.	Moderately coarse and rough on mountains/foothills. Stippled at lower elevations.	Smooth road and trails.

3. Narrative

The SQRU is composed of contiguous wilderness areas in the transition zone between the Mojave Desert to the east and the Sierra Nevada. It is composed of a range of terrains where valleys, canyons, alluvial fans, and steep hills lead into rugged granite mountains. The valleys are diversified; some are relatively open and flat, while others are surrounded by steep and rolling mountains. Deep, winding, open, and expansive canyons contain springs with extensive riparian vegetation. Mountain foothills quickly give rise to mountains with jagged peaks, rounded tops, and promontories of exposed rock. The western portion of the region contains the steepest mountains, with both narrow and open canyons. The highest point is Owens Peak at 8,453 feet; other major peaks include Chimney Peak (7,994 feet), Bear Peak (8,228 feet), Sawtooth Peak (8,000 feet), Morris Peak (7,215), and Pinyon Peak (6,805 feet). Narrow meandering creeks drain the mountains and widen as they reach the valleys below the mountain foothills. Higher rocky mountain terrains are dotted with pinyon pine and juniper trees; intervening slopes are brushy, with large granite rock outcroppings. Lower elevations, canyons, and valleys support stands of Joshua trees, big sage, creosote bush, burro bush, shadescale, pinyon pine, juniper, canyon oak, and grey pine.

4. SCORE *(Circle Appropriate Level)* *

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3	1	5
b. Vegetation	5	3	1	4
c. Water	5	3	0	4
d. Color	5	3	1	4
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3	0	5
f. Scarcity	5+	3	1	4
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1
TOTALS	27			

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☒ **A** — **19 or more**
- ☐ **B** — **12 – 18**
- ☐ **C** — **11 or less**

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	**Date** February 26, 2009 **District** Bakersfield Field Office **Resource Area** Lake Isabella and Lowland Hills **Scenic quality rating unit** 04

1. Evaluators *(names)*

Peter DeWitt
Derek Holmgren

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER *(Feature)*

	a. LANDFORM / WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE *(General)*
FORM	Undulating and winding hills. Narrow valleys. Rounded and pointed hilltops.	Relatively even. Rounded shrubs and trees. Short grasses.	Sparse vertical fence and utility posts and discrete wires.
LINE	Diagonal hillsides. Wavy ridgelines.	Diagonal on hillsides.	Horizontal and diagonal wires and vertical posts.
COLOR	Tan terrain and reddish tan/light brown. Some snow.	Light green to dark green. Seasonal variations.	Dark gray wires and brown posts.
TEXTURE	Relatively smooth.	Relatively smooth.	Stippled.

3. Narrative

The SRQU is composed of a patchwork of BLM land on hills at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley and around Lake Isabella. The rolling hills vary in size, height, and steepness. The hilltops range from smooth and rounded to more rough and pointed from exposed rock. Boulders are scattered across some hillsides and are clustered at the bottom of some hills. Rounded shrubs and trees form a relatively even cover over the landscape, except where exposed rock and boulders are found. Low brush and grasses evenly cover the landscape. Although the current dominant colors are shades of green, additional vegetation colors are expected during spring and summer.

4. SCORE *(Circle Appropriate Level)* *

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3	1	3
b. Vegetation	5	3	1	3
c. Water	5	3	0	1
d. Color	5	3	1	3
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3	0	4
f. Scarcity	5+	3	1	3
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0
TOTALS				17

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ **A** **19 or more**
- ☒ **B** **12 – 18**
- ☐ **C** **11 or less**

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY	Date: February 26, 2009 District: Bakersfield Field Office Resource Area: Temblor Scenic quality rating unit: 05

1. Evaluators *(names)*

Peter DeWitt
Derek Holmgren

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER *(Feature)*

	a. LANDFORM / WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE *(General)*
FORM	Undulating and rounded hills.	Short and rounded dispersed brush and scrub. Uniform and even grass where disturbances are absent.	Flat roads. Sparse vertical fence and utility posts with discrete wires.
LINE	Diagonal hills.	Flat on valley and diagonal on hills.	Winding and linear roads. Vertical posts and horizontal and diagonal wires.
COLOR	Tan terrain.	Light green to dark green. Seasonal variations.	Tan roads. Dark gray wires and brown posts.
TEXTURE	Relatively smooth.	Coarse.	Smooth roads. Stippled posts.

3. Narrative

The SRQU is composed of a patchwork BLM land in Temblor Range, which is characterized by winding and rolling hills covered by green grasses. Seasonal variation in vegetation color is expected. The hills are crossed by utility poles and fences. Dirt roads follow the contours of the hillsides and hilltops. Occasional dilapidated ranches.

4. SCORE *(Circle Appropriate Level)* *

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3	1	3
b. Vegetation	5	3	1	2
c. Water	5	3	0	1
d. Color	5	3	1	2
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3	0	3
f. Scarcity	5+	3	1	2
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0
TOTALS				13

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ **A** — **19 or more**
- ☒ **B** — **12 – 18**
- ☐ **C** — **11 or less**

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY	Date: February 26, 2009 District: Bakersfield Field Office Resource Area: Antelope to Buena Vista Scenic quality rating unit: 06

1. Evaluators *(names)*
Peter DeWitt
Derek Holmgren

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER *(Feature)*

	a. LANDFORM / WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE *(General)*
FORM	Flat valley.	Short and rounded dispersed brush and scrub. Uniform and even grass where disturbances are absent.	Uniform oil pumps connected by supporting apparatus.
LINE	Horizontal valley.	Flat on valley.	Vertical, horizontal, angular, and repetitive structures and apparatus.
COLOR	Tan terrain.	Light green to dark green. Seasonal variations.	Black, light gray, rust, red, and yellow structures and apparatus.
TEXTURE	Smooth.	Moderately coarse.	Bumpy structures and apparatus.

3. Narrative

The SQRU contains scattered BLM land in Buena Vista Hills, Buena Vista Valley, and Antelope Valley, which is characterized by flat terrain and the foot of Temblor Range. Uniform and even grasses and sparse shrubs and scrubs cover the ground. Seasonal variation in vegetation color is expected. Sparse utility poles cross the area.

In Buena Vista Hills and Buena Vista Valley, dirt roads and utility posts crisscross the area. A patchwork of vegetation exists between energy developments. In most cases, oil pumps connected to supporting apparatuses are densely clustered in defined areas and create a repetitive aesthetic.

4. SCORE *(Circle Appropriate Level)* *

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3	1	1
b. Vegetation	5	3	1	1
c. Water	5	3	0	0
d. Color	5	3	1	1
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3	0	0
f. Scarcity	5+	3	1	1
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	-2
TOTALS				2

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ **A** — **19 or more**
- ☐ **B** — **12 – 18**
- ☒ **C** — **11 or less**

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY	Date: February 26, 2009 District: Bakersfield Field Office Resource Area: San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara/Ventura Scenic quality rating unit: 07

1. Evaluators *(names)*

Peter DeWitt
Derek Holmgren

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER *(Feature)*

	a. LANDFORM / WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE *(General)*
FORM	Rolling and rounded hills and expansive hillsides.	Uniform and even grasses. Rounded and clustered trees with butt edge.	N/A
LINE	Diagonal hills and hillsides.	Diagonal on hills and hillsides.	N/A
COLOR	Tan terrain.	Light green to dark green and shades of brown. Seasonal variations.	N/A
TEXTURE	Relatively smooth.	Relatively smooth.	N/A

3. Narrative

This SQRU contains scattered BLM land in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. Typically, winding and rolling hills with rounded hilltops lead down to flatter terrain. Trees occupy higher elevations, and grasses occupy the lower hillsides. Although the current dominant colors are shades of green and brown, additional vegetation colors are expected during spring and summer.

4. SCORE *(Circle Appropriate Level)* *

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3	1	2
b. Vegetation	5	3	1	2
c. Water	5	3	0	1
d. Color	5	3	1	2
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3	0	3
f. Scarcity	5+	3	1	3
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0
TOTALS	13			

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ **A** **19 or more**
- ☒ **B** **12 – 18**
- ☐ **C** **11 or less**

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	**Date** February 26, 2009 **District** Bakersfield Field Office **Resource Area** Atwell Island **Scenic quality rating unit** 08

1. Evaluators *(names)*

Peter DeWitt
Derek Holmgren

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER *(Feature)*

	a. LANDFORM / WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE *(General)*
FORM	Flat terrain and canal.	Uniform, even, and short	Sparse vertical utility posts and discrete wires.
LINE	Horizontal terrain. Linear canal.	Horizontal.	Horizontal wires and vertical posts.
COLOR	Medium brown.	Green.	Dark gray wires and brown posts.
TEXTURE	Smooth.	Smooth.	Stippled.

3. Narrative

This SQRU is in the San Joaquin Valley. An irrigation canal is next to the BLM land, which is flat and uniformly covered with vegetation. Although the current dominant color is green, vegetation color and cover are expected to vary during the year. Adjacent land is similar to the BLM land.

4. SCORE *(Circle Appropriate Level)* *

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3	1	1
b. Vegetation	5	3	1	1
c. Water	5	3	0	1
d. Color	5	3	1	1
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3	0	1
f. Scarcity	5+	3	1	1
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	-1
TOTALS				5

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ **A** **19 or more**
- ☐ **B** **12 – 18**
- ☒ **C** **11 or less**

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	**Date** February 26, 2009 **District** Bakersfield Field Office **Resource Area** Kettleman Hills **Scenic quality rating unit** 09

1. Evaluators *(names)*
Peter DeWitt
Derek Holmgren

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER *(Feature)*

	a. LANDFORM / WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE *(General)*
FORM	Rolling and rounded hills.	Uniform and even grass. Occasional scrub.	Sparse vertical utility posts and discrete wires. Flat roads. Distinct pipelines. Intermittent energy sites.
LINE	Diagonal.	Diagonal.	Horizontal and diagonal wires and vertical posts. Winding and linear roads. Horizontal and diagonal pipelines. Vertical, horizontal, and angular structures.
COLOR	Tan terrain.	Light green to dark green. Seasonal variations though.	Dark gray wires and brown posts. Tan roads. Brown pipelines. Tan and gray structures.
TEXTURE	Smooth.	Relatively smooth.	Moderately coarse.

3. Narrative
The SQRU is in Kettleman Hills. Typically, the area is covered with rolling and rounded hills, which are evenly covered with short grass, as well as sporadic scrub. Although the current dominant colors are shades of green, different vegetation colors are expected during spring and summer. Roads and pipeline on the ground snake through the area between relatively small energy sites. The hills are crossed by utility poles and fences.

4. SCORE *(Circle Appropriate Level)* *

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3	1	2
b. Vegetation	5	3	1	3
c. Water	5	3	0	0
d. Color	5	3	1	1
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3	0	2
f. Scarcity	5+	3	1	1
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	-2
TOTALS	7			

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ **A** **19 or more**
- ☐ **B** **12 – 18**
- ☒ **C** **11 or less**

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY	**Date** February 26, 2009 **District** Bakersfield Field Office **Resource Area** Piedras Blancas Light Station **Scenic quality rating unit** 10

1. Evaluators *(names)*
Peter DeWitt
Derek Holmgren

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER *(Feature)*

	a. LANDFORM / WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE *(General)*
FORM	Flat.	Distinct and rounded trees. Short grass and scrub.	Flat road. Distinct buildings.
LINE	Horizontal.	Mostly horizontal.	Linear road. Vertical, horizontal, angular, and repetitive structures.
COLOR	Tan to medium brown terrain.	Light green to dark green. Seasonal variations.	Gray road. White, tan, and adobe structures.
TEXTURE	Relatively smooth.	Moderately smooth.	Bumpy.

3. Narrative
The SQRU is along the coast in northern San Luis Obispo County. The light station is on a rocky and gently sloping marine terrace. At the eastern edge of the property, the elevation is about 60 feet, and the western and southern sides of the property are at sea level. The vegetation at Piedras Blancas can be characterized as coastal scrub or coastal bluff scrub, heavily impacted by past human activities. But ongoing efforts to control nonnative species are now restoring native species. The current vegetation appears to be early successional. Given time, mature coastal scrub should develop. Although the current dominant colors are shades of green, additional vegetation colors are expected during spring and summer. Unique fauna are found at and around Piedras Blancas, which offers a bounty of natural vistas and photo opportunities. The Outer Islet, Piedra Blanca #1 and #2, and La Cruz Rock to the north are dramatic geological features that dominate the seascape to the south, west, and north of the point. Clouds and fog can change the scenic experience in just a few minutes as they rush in across the point.

4. SCORE *(Circle Appropriate Level)* *

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3	1	4
b. Vegetation	5	3	1	3
c. Water	5	3	0	1
d. Color	5	3	1	2
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3	0	5
f. Scarcity	5+	3	1	4
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0
TOTALS	19			

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☒ **A** **19 or more**
- ☐ **B** **12 – 18**
- ☐ **C** **11 or less**

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY	Date: February 26, 2009 District: Bakersfield Field Office Resource Area: San Joaquin Valley Scenic quality rating unit: 11

1. Evaluators *(names)*
Peter DeWitt
Derek Holmgren

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER *(Feature)*

	a. LANDFORM / WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE *(General)*
FORM	Relatively flat and open.	Moderately even. Short and round. Scrub and chaparral.	Flat dirt roads. Sparse vertical fence and utility posts with discrete wires. Occasional oil pumps connected by supporting apparatus.
LINE	Relatively horizontal.	Relatively horizontal.	Linear and horizontal roads. Vertical posts and horizontal and diagonal wires. Vertical, horizontal, and angular structures and apparatus.
COLOR	Tan terrain.	Seasonal variations.	Tan roads. Dark gray wires and brown posts. Black, light gray, rust, red, and yellow structures and apparatus.
TEXTURE	Relatively smooth.	Relatively smooth.	Smooth roads. Stippled posts. Bumpy structures and apparatus.

3. Narrative
The SQRU is a general collection of BLM lands in San Joaquin Valley and outside of other SQRUs. These relatively isolated parcels are typically flat and moderately covered with grasses and scrub. Dirt roads follow well defined routes. Utility infrastructure may cross the land, and there may be three to four oil pumps.

4. SCORE *(Circle Appropriate Level)* *

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3	1	2
b. Vegetation	5	3	1	2
c. Water	5	3	0	0
d. Color	5	3	1	1
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3	0	2
f. Scarcity	5+	3	1	1
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0
TOTALS				8

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ **A** — **19 or more**
- ☐ **B** — **12 – 18**
- ☒ **C** — **11 or less**

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 8400-1 (September 1985)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY**	**Date** February 26, 2009 **District** Bakersfield Field Office **Resource Area** Tehachapi **Scenic quality rating unit** 12

1. Evaluators *(names)*
Peter DeWitt
Derek Holmgren

2. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER *(Feature)*

	a. LANDFORM / WATER	b. VEGETATION	c. STRUCTURE *(General)*
FORM	Undulating and rounded hills.	Short and rounded dispersed brush and scrub. Uniform and even grass where disturbances are absent.	Flat roads. Sparse vertical fence and utility posts with discrete wires.
LINE	Diagonal hills.	Flat on valley and diagonal on hills.	Winding and linear roads. Vertical posts and horizontal and diagonal wires.
COLOR	Tan terrain.	Light green to dark green. Seasonal variations.	Tan roads. Dark gray wires and brown posts.
TEXTURE	Relatively smooth.	Coarse.	Smooth roads. Stippled posts.

3. Narrative
The SRQU is composed of a patchwork of BLM land. The area is characterized by winding and rolling hills covered by green grasses. Seasonal variation in vegetation color is expected. The hills are crossed by utility poles and fences. Dirt roads follow the contours of the hillsides and hilltops.

4. SCORE *(Circle Appropriate Level)* *

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	EXPLANATION OR RATIONALE
a. Landform	5	3	1	3
b. Vegetation	5	3	1	2
c. Water	5	3	0	1
d. Color	5	3	1	2
e. Adjacent Scenery	5	3	0	3
f. Scarcity	5+	3	1	2
g. Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0
TOTALS				13

SCENIC QUALITY CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ **A** **19 or more**
- ☒ **B** **12 – 18**
- ☐ **C** **11 or less**

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 8400-5
(May 1984)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCENIC QUALITY RATING SUMMARY

Date
February 26, 2009

District
Bakersfield Field Office

Resource Area
Field Office

1. Evaluators *(names)*
Peter DeWitt
Derek Holmgren

SCENIC QUALITY RATING UNITS (1)	Landform (2)	Vegetation (3)	Water (4)	Color (5)	Adjacent Scenery (6)	Scarcity (7)	Cultural Modification (8)	Total Score (9)	Scenic Quality Rating (10)	EXPLANATION (11)
01	5	4	3	4	3	4	0	23	A	01: Unit has varying topography, vegetation, and a river. The gorge offers dramatic views. There is minimal disturbance.
02	4	4	3	4	4	4	0	23	A	02: Unit has varying topography and vegetation. Kaweah River and tributaries and Case Mountain offer diverse views. There is minimal disturbance.
03	5	4	4	4	5	4	1	27	A	03: Unit has varying topography, vegetation, and sources of water. Little disturbance exists in the area. Mountains offer distant views.
04	3	3	1	3	4	3	0	17	B	04: Unit's Lake Isabella and Kern River Canyon offer diverse scenery. Surrounding land offers seasonal scenery.
05	3	2	1	2	3	2	0	13	B	05: Unit's indistinguishable rolling hills offer views of valley.
06	1	1	0	1	0	1	-2	2	C	06: Unit has highly developed oil fields.
07	2	2	1	2	3	3	0	13	B	07: Unit has small isolated parcels near Forest Service wilderness.
08	1	1	1	1	1	1	-1	5	C	08: Unit's flat open land is surrounded by agriculture land.
09	2	3	0	1	2	1	-2	7	C	09: Unit has a mixture of public and private parcels in Kettleman Hills, with energy development infrastructure.
10	4	3	1	2	5	4	0	19	A	010: Unit's historic lighthouse is on coastal point surrounded by the ocean.
11	2	2	0	1	2	1	0	8	C	011: Unit has scattered parcels next to agriculture and ranch land in broad valley.
12	3	2	1	2	3	2	0	13	B	012: Unit's rolling hills offer diverse views.

INSTRUCTIONS

Form is used in conjunction with the Scenic Quality Inventory and Evaluation Chart.

Appendix B
Sensitivity Level Rating Units

Form 8400-6
(September 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SENSITIVITY LEVEL RATING SHEET

Date
February 26, 2009

District
Bakersfield Field Office

Resource Area
Field Office

1. Evaluators *(names)*
Peter DeWitt
Derek Holmgren

SENSITIVE LEVEL RATING UNIT (1)	Type of User (2)	Amount of Use (3)	Public Interest (4)	Adjacent Land Uses (5)	Special Areas (6)	Other Factors (7)	Overall Rating (8)	EXPLANATION (9)
01	M	H	M	L	H		M	01: Unit is frequently used for recreation.
02	M	M	H	H	M		M	02: Unit is frequently used for recreation and is a buffer for Forest Service national parks.
03	L	L	L	H	L		L	03: Unit is a buffer for Forest Service land.
04	H	L	M	H	H		H	04: Unit is used for recreation and is a buffer for Forest Service land. There is public concern for keeping the wilderness areas natural.
05	M	M	M	M	M		M	05: Unit's lake and rivers are frequently used for recreation.
06	H	L	M	L	L		M	06: Those living in communities in the unit are concerned over land use.
07	H	L	M	L	M		M	07: Unit has high-profile Atwell Island Project.
08	L	M	M	L	L		L	08: Unit has dispersed ranches and few visitors.
09	M	L	L	M-H	L-M		M	09: Unit is near Forest Service wilderness and areas of critical environmental concern.
10	L	L	L	L	L		L	10: Unit has small isolated parcels next to agriculture and ranch lands.
11	H	M-H	H	H	H		H	11: Unit contains high-profile lighthouse.

Note: L = Low; M = Moderate; and H = High